

Hispanic Monarchy

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Validos of Charles II

- Juan José de Austria
- Duke of Medinaceli
- Count of Oropesa

Charles II´s wives

- Mariana of Austria
- Mariana of Newburg

His territories

- Viceroyalty of New Spain
- Viceroyalty of Peru
- Flanders
- Luxembourg
- French-Comté (until 1679)
- Sicily
- Kingdom of Naples
- Philippines
- Spain and its islands
- Portuguese Empire (until 1668)
- Ceuta
- Melilla

Enemies of Charles II

- France (Louis XIV)
- England (James II)
- Holy Roman Empire and Austria

THE HISTORICAL POST

Charles II of Spain

Charles II Problems

When Charles II (1661-1700), son of Philip IV and Mariana de Austria, was born, the papal emissary said that he was “horribly ugly. He scares me.” Although that, astrologists predicted that he was going to reign heroically and happily. Things happened in a different way. This was the start of the terrible rule of Charles II, the last Habsburg ruler in Spain. He had physical, intellectual, and emotional disabilities. He was sterile too. In the official document Charles was described as a handsome and healthful kid. Little Charlie started to behave strangely. He bit the nipples of the wet nurses. When his half-brother Juan José de Austria met him for the first time, Charles covered his nose and insisted that the king at least brush his hair. Little Charlie didn´t learn to talk until he was 10 and to walk until 8. He suffered measles, chicken pox, the rubella and the smallpox in his first 5 years. He had the same intelligence as a normal child when he was twenty. He was always visited by doctors, exorcists, priests... The only thing that made Charles feel better was putting hot cow intestines in the abdomen. In his last years his faints very usual and long. They were accompanied of legs and arms shakes and movements of eyes and mouth from one place to another. He suffered epilepsy. Charles died when he was 39. In the autopsy record it was said that “his body had no blood and his heart was as little as a pepper grain, he only had one black testicle, his lungs were corroded and his intestines, putrefied” People in the time said he was bewitched. Other people say that he was a incest, a product of several marriages between family. We can´t know. The only thing we know is that he probably was the most unfortunate king in Spain.



Charles in his twenties

Charles II problem of succession

As Charles was sterile, he died without any descendants. In his testament, he gave the whole territory to Philip of Anjou, a Bourbon noble from France, which was the great son of Louis XIV. But Maria of Newburg, his wife, thought in a different way. She wanted Archduke Charles of Austria to be the new Spanish King. Quickly a lot of countries in Europe started to fight for Spain. Everybody wanted that big territory that comprised territories all over the world. It was interesting to have an alliance between kings in two countries. There were two sides in the war: the supporters of Archduke Charles of Austria (England, the Holy Roman Empire, Austria, Portugal and the Low Countries) and the supporters of Philip of Anjou (France, Bavaria and Savoy). It lasted from 1701 until 1713 in which the treaty of Utrecht was signed. Philip of Anjou was proclaimed as Philip V. This marked the finish of the Habsburg rule in Spain. From 1713 until now, the Bourbons have ruled Spain.